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THE SPELING REFORMER:

PUBLISHT IN THE INTEREST OV
A SIMPLIFIED ORTHOGRAFY FOR THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

PRINTED ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN BASIS, VIZ :

*No new leterz, but eech leter and digraf ov the comon alfabet
employd tu denote its most usual sound.*

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THE DŪTY OV LITERARY MEN.

AN ADDRES

BEFORE THE INDIANAPOLIS BRANCH OV THE SOSIETY OV ALUMNI OV THE INDIANA
ASBURY UNIVERSITY,)

BY REV. T. A. GOODWIN, A. M.

The theem ov this evening shal be the dŭty we ō [owe] tu the wurd az an assosiashon ov literary jentlmen. The relashon we sustane tu the foremōst ūniversity in the grate Mississipi valy, no les than our personal amez, forbidz that we shūd devote our time holely tu such subjects az may simply entertane or amūze us individuāly. The wurd haz a clame upon us in this assosiāted capasity no les than in our prīvate or profeshonal wauks, and it haz a rite tu command our servisez in whotever may tend tu elevate the milionz, whether that be by lifting them tu a hyer plane, or by simply remooving such burdenz az wūd prevent thare lifting themselvz. Posibly, in this age ov pūsh it may not be required ov us that we neglect our biznes tu go a forajing for rongz upon which tu devote our enerjyz, but we dare not withhold our ade when our iez [eyes] behōld an oppreshon which pervadez every rank ov sosīety, inflicting its crŭeltyz alike upon inosent child-hūd and venerabl age, not spāring male or fēmale in the intermēdiate stāgez; oppresing the lāboring man and the man ov leterz, and th biznes man. It iz foly for eny ov us tu affect egzemshon from such a rong, notwithstanding our sōshal and literary standing mite indicate tu uthertz that we suffer very litl, if eny, from it. No dout we doo sufer les than sum. We sertenly hav pade enuf in time and muny tu clame at leest a parshal egzemshon, if eny can, yet we aul suffer enuf tu caul fōrth our most earnest efforts, ēven if acting from pūrely selfish

mōtivz, and no manly simpathy moovd us in hehâf ov suffering millionz. No literary man hoo appreshiates hiz oportūnityz can be indifferent tu a rong which sēriously affects literary acquirements, and every form ov biznes life abuv the lōest grade ov mere muscūler applicashon.

AN OLD AND JIANT RONG.

It wūd be unwurthy ov us, wāring the onor ov our alma māter and remembering the sucsesez ov our erly struglz, tu hezitate now, when every considerashon ov hūmanity caulz us tu contribute tu the overthro ov a jiant rong, tu plead that that rong iz ōld and interwōven in every department ov literature and biznes. Neether age, nor strength, nor ūbiquity can sanctify a rong, nor be allowd tu plead egzemshon from assault. Suppoze ēven that sucsez iz sertenly a grate way off, that iz no apolojy for indifferens or inacshon. The hērōz ov the wūld have seldom bin men ov dash, and very few acheevments in the moral or matērial wūld wurth nāming hav bin accomplisht sudenly. It iz the pāshent, ploding wun, hoo winz in the batl ov life. Wilberforce and Clarkson did not shrink from assāling slāvery becauz slāvery woz strongly intrencht in the sōshal, political and commershal interests ov Great Britain. It woz enuf for theez hērōz tu nō that slāvery woz rong tu indicate thare dūty. At ferst thay wer aulmost alone, but thay wer not tu be responsibl for rezults ; hens, beleeving that *Truth and wun constitutes a majority in eny good cauz* thay began thare wurk. Neether wer thay discouraged becauz utherz had faled, nor becauz yeer after yeer past before thay saw eny vizibl frutes ov thare lāborz. Thay began becauz thay aut tu, and thay continued, notwithstanding discouragement, and thay livd tu see slāvery abolisht in aul ov Great Britain in les than forty yeerz, and in les than a hundred yeerz thare woz not a slave in the Unīted States.

ENGLISH ORTHOGRAFY A SLAVE POWER.

We ar cauld az literary men tu resl with a more formidabl rong than African Slāvery ever woz. In its wurst fāzez sumthing gūd cūd be sed in mitigashon if not in justificashon ov that grate bloch upon English and American sivilizashon. It woz at leest profitabl tu the slavehōlderz. The fo which demandz our attenshon iz a fo tu aul. It oppresez aul, it impoverishez aul, and enrichez nun. It beginz with the child in the nursery, it dogz him throo hiz scool dayz, it besets hiz path throo colege, and torments him amidst hiz grātest sucsesez in the profeshonal and literary pursutes ov mature life ; and that enemy iz the Speling Būk.

The bare menshon ov the speling būk shūd arouz the rīchus indig-

nashon ov every scolar. It sudjects yeers ov perplexity and toil, with at best but parshal suces. Not wun ov yoo can spel correctly, tho meny ov yoo hav attaned enviabl eminens in yoor several caulings, and thoze ov yoo hoo spel with even tolerabl correctnes doo it at grate expens ov time and lābor. A literary jentlman ov no meen repūta-shon, asserts that he haz spent more than too yeerz ov hiz literary life in consūlting the dicshonary on speling alone. It wūd surprize eny wun hoo haz not bin in pozishon tu obzerv, tu lern how very few spel correctly. In an editōrial life ov foreteen yeerz, with correspondents amung the mōst eminent lawyerz, doctorz, ministerz, educātorz, politishanz and biznes men, I seldom found wun hooz manūscript did not need the correcting hand ov the "compozitor." Blessed compozitor! He iz the editorz frend az wel az the frend ov the corespondent; and compozitorz ar the ōnly men az a clas hoo ūniformly spel with even tolerabl correctnes, and the wel thumd dicshonary ov the compōzing room attests the lābor spent in acquiring the art, and how tu the last the ōldest and best ov them distrust thare ability tu conform tu the whimz ov the tīrant.

CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

The crūel mockery which this tīrant inflicts upon trustfūl childhūd iz not the leest ov the outrājez which the speling bük perpetrates. It beginz with the ferst leson in speling and never lets up throo the longest life. When the chīld haz committed tu memory the ferst and simplest task, b-a, *ba*; b-e, *be*; b-i, *bi*; b-o, *bo*; b-u, *bu*; b-y, *by*; he aut tu feel that he haz lernd sumthing, but he haz not. If the teecher pronounsez this silabl, "by," he cannot tel for the life ov him which "bī" he iz tu spel, whether b-i or b-y; and he iz tu lern shortly that he iz stil more at a los, for it may be b-u-y, or b-y-e, or b-a-y, az wel as b-i or b-y. He can cum within fore ov it after much lābor. He haz lernd tu spel "ba," but he iz tu discover soon that he duz not no which "bā," whether b-a, or b-a-y, or b-e-y, or b-e-i; and plane "bē" may be b-ee, or b-e-a az wel az b-e; and "bō" may be b-e-a-u, or b-o-w, or b-o-a, az wel az b-o; and "bū" may be b-e-a-u or b-u-e az wel az b-u. Iz thare eny uther tīrant on erth hoo haz three, or fore, or five wayz ov dooing a thing, hoo inflicts a punishment for dooing it wun way when hiz caprees demanded anuther way for that particular occasion. Yet the chīld or the man hoo spelz "by" the rong way iz held in contemt—iz punisht for his ignorans aul hiz life.

But this iz not the wurst. This unsuspecting pursūer ov nolege under difficultiz iz shure tu lern that he can never tel—never tu the day ov hiz deth, tho he becum the mōst eminent ov men—whot b-o-w,

or s-o-w, or r-e-a-d, or t-e-a-r, and meny uther combinashonz ov leterz spel, without rēding bakwerdz or forwerdz or both, tu gather from the conecshon what thay aut tu spel. He lernz by and by that sumtimez the tīrant requires him tu uze a-i for plane *a* az in *jail*, but that a-i iz a substitute for *e* in *said* and *i* in *aisle*; so e-o becumz *e* in *people*, *o* in *yeoman*, *u* in *pidgeon*; and o-e iz *o* in *foe*, *u* in *does*; o-u-g-h iz *o* in *dough*, *oo* in *through*, *uf* in *tough*, *auf* in *trough*, *ou* in *plough*.

WHOT MAKES THIS SLAVERY POSIBL?

The slave hoo ōbayz a crūel master without suspecting that the exacshonz ar outrājus iz more tu be pitid than the more sensitiv and more sensibl wun hoo chafes under the outrage and rezolvz tu be free and tu help utherz to be free aulso. It iz therfore no compliment tu yoo that aul theze yeez yoo hav bin requīred tu expres the long sound ov *o* in more than twenty ways, and yet neether new it or cared for it. It iz such stūpidity that makes slāvery posibl. It iz tu caul yoor attenshon to such outrājez, and thus, if posibl, tu enlist yoor simpaty in behâf ov thoze hoo intend tu be free, that I hav chozen this them for yoor considerashon, tho fūly aware that sum ov yoo wil continue tu hug yoor chanez az ov ōld, and probably ēven make an effort tu defend and approov the exacshonz ov yoor master. And now so insensibl ar yoo tu yoor one [own] sufferings, that it iz nesesity tu giv yoo proof ov this before yoo wil beleev that yoo hav ēven bin so treeted. Ferst, ther iz plane *o*, then ther ar o-h and o-w-e for ō alone; then yoo hav o-w in *blow*, o-l in *folk*, k-o in *know*, o-o in *door*, e-w-e in *ewe*, o-e in *foe*, e-a-u in *beau*, h-o in *ghost*, e-w in *sew*, o-u-g-h, in *dough*, w-o-l in *wholly*, w-o-e in *whole*, o-a in *coal*, e-o in *yeoman*, o-l in *roll*, o-u in *court*, w-o in *sword*, a-u in *hautboy*, and probably several utherz which doo not now occur tu me.* And nerely the same may be sed ov the different wayz ov expressing the soundz ov the uther vowelz. Iz it eny wunder then that no man but a wurd-bilder in the printing offis can ever lern tu spel our language, and that not wun in a thouz. and ov ēven wurd-bilderz ever so lernz it az tu be able tu dispens with the speling bük, tho thay hav dun nuthing els than spel for forty or fifty yeez?

SPELING A DELUSION AND A SNARE.

The ēvilz ov this outrājus sistem ov speling, (if eny thing so arbitrary and caprishus can be cauld a sistem,) ar innūmerabl. It not ōnly requirez yeez tu lern whot shüd be lernd in az meny munths,

*Prof. Ellis haz shone in his "Plea" that the letter *a* haz 7 different soundz; *e*, 7; *i*, 6; *o*, 11; and that the long sound ov *e* is represented in 40 different combinashons or leterz, *a* by 34 and *o* by 34.

and harasez its victim throo life with a constant convicschon that he iz aul the time liabl tu mistakes, but, more than eny thing els, it standz in the way ov acquîring our language by fôrenerz. For that mater meny a fine English scolar never pronounsez aul hiz wurdz correctly. Wun ov the best preecherz we ever had in Indiana, (and so eminent a scolar that he iz recognized az wun ov the âblest prezidents our alma mäter ever had,) woz accustomd tu reed from the Sâmpz that "The wicked wauk in a vane shoo," az if the shooz [shoes] ov the wicked differd from thoze ov the rîchus ; and yoo hav ofen bin invîted by yoor pastor to attend the *suing* society at such a time and plase ; and the literary world iz now aul törn up ôver the important question whether "either" shüd be pronounst *eether* or *iether*.

A LEJUN OV "BUTS."

The majority ov thinking men, upon a prezentashon ov this subject, admit the nesesity ov a reform, but—But whot? Away with yoor "buts" in a case like this. "But" iz the wurd ov cowards and slugards, and iz unwurthy a sun ov ôld Asbury University. It iz unwurthy eny enlîtend American scolar when applied tu a subject which promisez so much tu the wurd az this reform in speling promisez. When a Swis pezant, fifty yeerz ago, sudjested the bilding ov a tunel under Mount Cenis, the hole wurd exclamed that wüd be a güd thing if it cüd be dun, "but"—and if ther had bin no plukyer men than theez "but"-erz, that tunel wüd never hav bin bilt. For thouzandz ov yeerz the commers ov the wurd had cast a longing lük acros the Ismus ov Sûez, yet it continued tu sale around the Cape of Good Hope, becauz ther wer so meny "buts" in the way, until pluky France determind tu ôvercum them aul. Ther woz hardly an American a hundred yeerz ago that did not beleev that nashonal independens wüd be a güd thing, yet thouzandz ov them encuraged the enemy and weekened the pâtriots by thare eternal din ov "buts." Wilberforce and Clarkson, and Garrison, and Sumner, and Giddings, faut thare batlz agenst slâvery amidst a perfect storm ov "buts." The trûth iz that ever sins thoze ten explôrerz came bak from Canaan and reported tu Moses thât the land woz güd enuf, and frutefûl enuf, "but"—the cowardly "but"-erz hav bin nûmericaly about az ten tu too ; the Calebz and the Joshuaz not ônly having tu fite the batlz, but tu cary the lode ov feerfûl and fânt-harted wunz hoo wish wel,—"but."

THE ETIMOLOGICAL OBJECSHUN.

Only a wurd or too need be devôted tu a considerashon ov the obstacl in the way ov reforming our speling. In the ferst plase ther

ar a few hoo affect a wunderfûl reverens for whôt thay caul the historic character ov our language ; and thay feer that a ûniform method ov speling wûd destroy aul this. Thare feerz ar groundles ; but suppoze it shûd, hoo carez ? Ov aul pitiable characterz on erth ther iz ônly wun more tu be pitid than the lothsum sîon ov sum playd out aristocratic family hoo clamez speshal recognishon becauz hiz fâther woz Lord This Wun, or hiz grandfâther woz Duke That Wun ; and that more tu be pitid wun iz the hâf-starvd pedant hoo fîndz food intelectûal in diging after the roots ov comon or uncommon wurdz. It iz ônly in shody sôsiety that men ar tu be found

Hooz therd ansestral thay dare not assend,
For feer thay find it waxt at the uthor end.

The jenûin American gentlman carez but litl for pedigree. Hooever acts wel hiz part iz the man for American nôbility. So with our wurdz. Hoo cares whether eny given wurd be a literary Melchisedec, az our wurdz “skedadl” or “bûldoze” without an ancestry, or a derivativ from the Latin, or the Greek, or the Choctaw, or the Chinese ? Ther iz absolutely nuthing in this historical objecshon. But suppoze it tu be aul its frendz clame. Let me play pedant a mōment, and try : Jentlmen, the wurd *fonografy* iz derived from too Greek wurdz, “fōnē” a sound, and “grafē” tu rite. It meenz, az yoo redily see, tu rite by sound. Duz it make eny differens tu yoo how I hav speld theez wurdz ; whether with *ph* or plane *f* ? So ov eny uthor wurd. *Filosofy* is derived from *filos* a luvor, and *sofia*, wîzdom. Duz it make eny differens tu yoo that I hav speld the wurdz with an *f* insted ov *ph* ? And pray tel me why *f* iz not az gûd Greek az *ph*. But stil suppoze that we cannot trase tu thare orijin a few wurdz, how meny ov the reederz ov our language can trase them az they now ar speld ? Not wun in a thouzand can trase a hundred wurdz tu thare orijin without the ade ov a dicshonary, and shal we perpetuate the prezent sistem ov speling for the amuzement or gratificashon ov theez few ? Language iz not mādē for the few but for the meny. But our prezent speling iz quite az likely tu mislead az tu leed in this chase after ancestry. How few ov our pedigree hunters no that the ānshent way ov speling *sister*, woz s-w-i-s-t-e-r. Having dropt the *w* in *sister*, why not drop it in *sword* ?

THE MENTAL DISIPLIN OBJECSHUN.

But we ar tôld that lerning tu spel iz a grate mental disiplin. It disiplinz whot ? The reezoning facultiz ? No. The perseptiv ? No. The imajinativ ? No. Nuthing but the memory, and it disiplinz that

only by cramming. Hâf the time devoted tu acqûiring the arbitrary method ov spelng wûd enable the pûpil tu commit hâf ov Shakespere'z playz, or aul ov the New Testament tu memory. It iz anything but an educator. The pûpil can take jëografy or arithmetic and study it, but no man iz competent tu teeche hoo wil giv a chîld a spelng bûk and require him tu study a lesôn, until he haz had yeez ov instructshon. Whôt can eny chîld doo without the ôral instructshon ov the teecheer? Only think ov a chîld pöring ôver d-e-w—dû ; s-e-w—whot iz that? It iz not sū. Or f-o-e—fō ; s-h-ō-e—whot iz that? It iz not shō ; or d-o-e-s—whot iz that? It iz not *doze* or *dooz*. Or f-l-oo-r—*flore* ; f-oo-t—whot iz that? It iz not *fote*. Or g-i-b-b-e-t—*jibet*, g-i-b-b-e-r—whot iz that? It iz not *jiber*. Beter simplify spelng so that it can be lernd, and then, if yoo wont mental disiplin and hav no arithmetics or jëometryz, giv yoor chîld a ches bôrd and instruct him in ches, or let him commit the bible tu memory, and in eether case yoo hav beter disiplin than the spelng bûk can posibly giv.

DUZ SPELING DISTINGWISH MEENINGS?

Akin tu this historic argument, if not indeed a part ov it, iz the objection that a ūniform method ov spelng wûd confound the meening ov wurdz pronounst alike but speld differently, and having different meenings. Ther iz absolutely nuthing in this when properly considered. Every teecheer ov children nôz that ov aul the hard things required ov a chîld in lernng tu spel, ther iz nuthing harder than tu fix upon the mînd theez too or more methodz ov spelng the same wurd, attaching a different meening tu eech, unles it be the oppozit crûelty ov requiring them tu sumtimez caul s-o-w—sō, and sumtimez *sou*, and t-e-a-r sumtimez *teer*, and sumtimes *tare* ; r-e-a-d sumtimez *reed*, and sumtimez *red*. Not wun chîld in a thouzand livz in such ignorans az not tu no long before he starts tu scool that the word *are* [air] iz sumtimez uzed tu denote wun hoo inherits, and aulso tu designate the flûid we breeth, and he neether nôz nor cares how it iz speld, and he never confoundz the meening in heering or speeking. The truth iz this distingshon ov meening by site iz wun ov the hardest thingz tu acquire, and wun ov the things not aulways acquired even by men ov eminens in uther wauks ov life than meer wurd bilding. No chîld three yeez ôld ever confoundz the *sewing* his muther duz with the *sowing* his father duz, the wun in the hous and the uther in the feeld. No *man* duz, until by long driling he iz compeld tu. Take the folōing :—“Az I rode homewerd at a brisk gate in a brâsing are, with a hole stake in my basket—a chois pees ov meet—a red dô with glosy hare crost the rode before me, and a hare sprang from its

hole by a stake. The farmer woz sōing wheet from a sak. At home I found Mary with her handz in dō, aultho her bo, the are [heir] ov the late Mr. Jonez woz standing by. Jane woz sōing upon a shert, and Clara with a bütifül bo pind tu her new sak ran tu meet me at the gate, with a salūtashon ov pees, having just red her lesen." Heer ar thirteenth parez ov wurdz ov the same sound but ov diferent significashon. Doo yoo fînd eny confuzion because thay ar in eech case speld alike? Neether wüd yoo, if yoo wer tu see them in print, if yoor ie had not bin traned at grate expens tu doo so.

INDIFERENS, THE GRATE OBSTAEL.

A second obstael in the way ov reforming our speling iz the army ov indiferent peepl. Thay doo nôt care whot it costs tu obtane an edücashon. Thay hav about aul thay want, or at least aul thay ever expect tu get, and utherz may or may not be edücâted; whot doo thay care? This iz a formidabl obstael if numberz ar tu count, but it iz formidabl ònly by its vis inertia. By and by, however, when the reform iz wel under way, and suces iz ashûrd, we may count on the wate ov thare influens if it iz tu cost them nuthing—nô thaut, no time, no muny, no exershon ov eny kînd. Then thay wil not ònly help us by thrōing the wate ov thare influens with us, but thay wil clame that thay aulways wer in fâvor ov the reform.

Meenwhile theez facts ar patent tu aul: in the army the offiser hooz speling iz scrûpûlusly exact, iz more likely tu be a McClellan or a Scott, more fâmus for diching than fiting, than tu be a Zach Taylor, or fiting Jo Hooker hooz bravery winz batlz. The Drewz and the Vanderbilts neether no nor care that "money" and "darkey" ar spelt with *e-y*, while "penny" and "whisky" end with plane *y*. Speling according tu Webster iz no disgrase, yet confesedly the very exact speler remindz yoo ov the lawyer, or doctor, or preecher hooz toilet bespeeks the barber and the bandbox; he may hav grate forse ov caracer, but ûzûaly he haz not.

THE OBSTAEL OV A SELFISH CONSERVATIZM.

Ther iz a therd obstael in the clas aulredy alluded tu; very respectabl az tu numberz, and respectabl enuf in caracer az the wûrld counts respectability, hoo admit the dezîrablnes ov the reform if it cüd be accompisht, or râther if it had bin accompisht a hundred yeeرز ago, so that they cüd hav avaled themselvz ov its benefits without eny extra expens or lâbor. But now that it may unsetl them sumwhot, and iz at best likely tu be a long and tēdius job, thay beg tu be excuzed, and if thay must take sidez, thay think it eezier tu

take sidez with the majority, and say thay ar oppozed tu the reform. Thay ar not the Wilberforcez, or Clarksonz, or Fultonz, or Morsez ov sosîety. What doo thay care for a blesing that iz a grate way auf [off], and possibly nôt attānabl at aul? Thay care nuthing for heven itself while it seemz remote, and its pozeshon impliez sum exershon on thare part; and az thay lük with pity and contemt upon the man hoo seemz tu hav the rewordz ov the fütüre life aulways before him, so thay affect grate contemt for the vizionary impracticablz hoo devote thaut and muny tu such a wurk az reforming eny thing, espeshaly so intrensht a rong az English speling. But ov such must be no alumnus ov Asbury University. Hyer and nobler purpusez must moov us.

PRACTICAL QUESTIONZ.

Ther ar too practical questionz before us relätig tu this subject; the first, *whot iz tu be dun*; and the second, *whot can we doo*, which includez a therd, *whot aut we tu doo*; for we aut tu doo aul we can. In anser tu the first question I wüd say that the ultimate object must be a ūniform sistem ov speling by a ūniform sistem ov caracterz, sufficient tu reprezent eech distinct sound. But neserily this consumashon must be very distant. Perhaps at prezent, no new caracter shüd be introdüst. Whotever iz dun shüd be avābl by the milionz hoo cannot redily change az tu the mecanical part ov riting. It shüd at leest be opshunal tu uze new caracterz or new combinashonz ov öld caracterz. If the yunger shüd be taut tu rîte cheefly or holely with new caracterz, ther shüd be such combinashonz ov the familiar caracterz that ölder peeple may uze the new methodz ov speling with the öld leterz, and uze it önlly in part if thay prefer.

Az tu the second question, we answer that the first thing tu be dun iz tu cultivate a profound contemt for the speling bük. Pedagogz and printerz hav läbord for ājez with too much suces tu inculcate the nōshon that speling not according tu Webster iz bad speling, and thāt bad speling indicates poor scolarship, and in jeneral a wont ov repūtabl profeshonal, or sōshal standing. This iz faults, absolütely faults, and we must be böld tu declare it faults. The truth iz that very few ov our most eminent men spel ēven tolerably wel, exept at the expens ov immens läbor and care. Nuthing iz more contentibl, therfore, than tu lisen tu the disparajing kritisizm which scool teecherz and tipe-seterz ofen indulge in upon the orthografy ov the men hoo command our armiz, and leed our senates, and direct our commers, and explore the sîenses, and expound the scriptures. If ther iz eny thing more contentibl it iz tu lisen tu the criticizm ov a clas ov very smaül literary men hoo join in the refrane, suppozing that thay thereby

proclame thare òn gratenes. Tu be a correct speler, according tu our prezent standard, indicates that the man haz bin a teecher ov children or a tipe-seter aul hiz life, or that he haz an extrordinary memory, and it indicates nuthing more.

When the intrepid William Tell stüd before the oppresor ov hiz peepel, and cāring not a whit for himself personaly, lükt the tîrant fül in the fase and sed, "I hate thee, tîrant," he not ònly strengthened hiz òn arm and the armz ov hiz felo cuntrymen, but he sent a thril ov teror tu the hart ov the tîrant himself. The wurd ov leterz, lying at the feet ov the speling bük, shüd find a William Tell in every educatid man hoo shüd defiantly say, "I hate thee, tîrant," and bid the milionz folo in a rebellion agenst its authority.

HOW REFORMZ AR EFFECTED.

We must not be òver sangwin. From the very nāture ov the undertāking it must take a considerabl time for its accomplishment. The political sentiment which constitutes the sentral îdēa ov our Declarashon ov Independens had bin grōing for ājes on both sidez ov the Atlantic before it had suffisiently cristalized tu becum the bāsis ov a political revolūshon. The Declarashon came at last, but that ònly cut us loos from the muther cuntry; it did not giv us a reliabl substitute. It tük yeez ov wor, and then yeez ov debate and experiment before we had a nashonal existens, and ever sins the adopshon ov a constitūshon and form ov gūvernment we hav bin amending and revizing, and no wun wil say that we ar yet throo.

Thus in this revolūshon. The grōing discontent ov the ājez culmināted in Filadelfia at our grate sentenial selebrashon, dūring which, eminent men of leterz, from Canada, England, the United States and uther cuntryz les directly interested, met tu take steps for ūtilizing and directing the spirit ov discontent which had, until then, bin powerles becauz it had not bin concentrāted. Thay organized a sositēy and agreed tu act in consort az far az consort iz practicabl, and it iz safe tu say that no similar assosiashon ever gatherd more strength, or developept more promise in the same length ov time. In the fersht plase, the thouzandz hoo hav heertufore acted alone, if acting at aul, now find a senter ov simpathy and cō-operashon. In the second plase the differensez ov opinion ar referd tu an able comitee for such adjustment az thay may be able tu sudgest. This comitee wil not act arbitrarily. Thay probably wil not sudgest extreem mezurez. Thay wil probably sudgest, az the fersht step, that every man be allowd tu expres hiz contemt ov the speling bük in hiz one way. That iz, thay wil allow every man to spel az he pleeez, without disparajing

hiz literary or profeshonal standing, requîring ònly that he spel *sole* and *hole*, and *hart* and *hare* and aul uthér wurdz having the same vowel sound in the same way, regardles ov the nūmerus ways dictated by the spelîng bûk. Tho thay wil undoutedly conseed that ultimately every distinct sound must have its appropriate representing carактер, thay ar not likely tu ârbitrarily introduse new carактерz now, nor tu insist upon ûniformity at prezént. Tu hav demanded at the beginîng ov our nashonal exzistens the forms ov sôshal, political and relijus life now obtâning, wüd hav bin fâtal tu our political life. Meny a relic ov the monarkyz and aristocrasyz ov the ôld world wer so interwôven with the hole fabric ov sôshal, political and relijus life that tu hav eradicated them sudenly wüd hav bin tu destroy the hole ; so in our literary life. We cannot change sudenly from wun extreem tu the uthér. It wil be yeerz before, under the most fâvorabl sercumstansez, we can hope for eny thing more than approximate ûniformity. For that matter, after hundredz ov yeerz ov experimenting ther iz now no ûniversaly recognized standard ov orthografy. But when it duz cum we wil hav a sistem which wil be wurthy the American peepl.

INERSHIA TU BE MET BY ACSHUN.

For meny yeerz we must expect heer and thare sum hoo wil adheer tu the ânshént order ov things, and continue tu ôbay the spelîng bûk. We wil tolerate aul such, az we tolerate the Jujéz ov the Federal Sûpreem Côrt hoo continue tu don wigs and gounz az emblemz ov offishal life, tho we may despize the sily attemt tu perpetûate an effect sistem. Only this much must we require ov aul hoo wish tu brake the yoke ov the oppressor; thay must uze such a combinashon az wil spel the given wurd and nuthing els. Thus, if he preferz tu spel the wurd "dough" by a shorter method let it be d-o, or at môst d-o-e. But while s-o spelz *so*, d-o shüd spel *do*. If s-o ever spelz *so*, it shüd always spel *so*, dooing away with s-e-w and s-o-w. If b-a-r-e ever spelz *bare*, let us doo away with b-e-a-r. If r-o-o-m ever spelz *room*, let us doo away with r-h-e-u-m, and so on.

On this lâbor ov reform we must count upon at leest the negativ oppozishon ov sum literary men ov fare reputé. Thay hav wôrn thare chanez until thay hav becum sumwhat accustômd tu them, and the decrepitude ov age, no les than thare nâtiv slugishnes, iz unfâvorabl tu change. Habit haz much tu doo with sum men'z acts. Meny a prizoner haz preferd the sel tu freedom, from mere habit, az meny an ôld slave acsepted freedom with a protest. But such men ar not made ov the stuf that makes reformerz. Very meny pâs throo life with tolerabl respectability if not with sum distînceshun becauz thay hav bin

content tu truge along in the beeten trak, affecting tu despize the restlesnes ov bōlder and brāver men. Thay chuze tu caul themselvz “conservativz,” az if that ment sumthing very respectabl, and thay caul thoze hoo lābor tu elevate thare felo men “fanatics,” as if that ment sumthing very dredfūl. But the wurd haz ofen bin lifted tu a hyer plane by fanatics, and the children ov the so could conservativz hav never faled tu bild mouūments tu thoze hoom thare conservativ faterz stoned and contemd.

THE REFORM NOT A NEW WUN.

But after aul, this enterprize iz nuthing new. It iz simply an effort tu hāsen the inevitabl and tu reech within the next jenerashon—say within a hāf sentury, whot mite utherville require sentūryz. Modificashonz ar gōing on aul the time and hav bin for hundredz ov yearz. In our ōn day “honour” haz dropt the *u*, and “traffick” its *k*, and “traveller” wun ov its *l*z, and “plough” haz becum *plow*, and “gaol,” *jail*, and meny similar chanjez hav bin made. Some ov the “conservativz,” hoo dred the exershon which a change may require ov them, becum solisituz ov the fate ov būs now printed, if the new form ov speling iz adopted. Whot wil becum ov them? thay ask. We anser, just whot haz becum ov Shakespere, and Milton, and Bacon, and utherville būs hooz ferst edishonz wer printed in an orthograpy so unlike the prezent that it requirez an effort tu reed them. Take the folōing from the ferst edishon ov the authorized vershon ov our English Bible. “Give eare O yee heauens and I will speake; and heare O earth. My doctrine shall drop as the raine, my speach shall distill as the deaw, as the smal raine upon the tender herbe and as the showers upon the grasse.” In the same connecshon we hav r-o-c-k-e for *rock*, w-o-r-k-e for *work*, w-a-y-e-s for *ways*, t-r-u-t-h-e for *truth*, and so on. In Tyndale’s New Testament the pronoun “it” is speld in 8 different wayz; *it*, *itt*, *yt*, *ytt*, *hit*, *hitt*, *hyt*, *hytt*,. Shakespere speld *pilgrim*, and *certain*, and *black*, and *again* with a final *e*, We hav abandond the orthograpy in which Shakespere’s wurks wer riten, yet hiz wurks remane. So it wil be with aul the būs now on the shelvz. Such az caul for new edishonz wil be eezily made tu conform tu the new stile ov speling.

A HYER MOTIV.

But ther iz a hyer motiv than eny ov theez, which appeelz tu every American scolar in behaf ov the most simpl and sientific method ov speling our wurdz. The ralerodez, and telegrafs, and steemships ov the wurd ar māking the nāshonz ov the wurd wun in interest az thay ar becuming wun in commers. It iz the English speeking nāshonz more

then aul utherz that ar carrying the Gospel tu thoze that ar without Christ, and az thay go thay cary the English Bible. Az the demandz ov commers require a ūniversal trade language, however tenāshusly the several nāshonz may adheer tu thare nativ dīalects for sum purposez, and az the sūpremasy ov England and America in the commers ov the wūrlđ haz aulredy made the English language that ūniversal trade language, so the nesesityz ov mishonary lāborz require a ūniversal Cristian language, and the sūpērior zeal ov English speeking mishonaryz point tu the English language az that wun Cristian language. Our nashonal pride no les than our Cristian zeal shūd therfore prompt us tu make our language az eezily acquired as posibl. Our irregūlar verbz ar bad enuf, but when it cumz tu our spelng, not wun in ten thouzand hoo lernz tu speek our language with tolerabl accurasy, lernz tu spel or reed it expt with grate lābor.

DIFFICULTYZ WHICH BESET FORINERZ.

Let us imajin a converted heethen seeking tu becum acquānted with the language ov hiz teecher, and cuming tu the irregūlar verb "to doo." He haz aulredy lernd that s-o spelz *so*, and g-o, *go*; hens he wūd suppoze that d-o shūd spel *do*, but he iz told to pronouns it *doo*; then he beginz tu conjūgate, "I doo, thou dooest"—"No, no," sez the teecher, "thou dōst." "Thou dōst" sez the heethen, "he dōz"—No, no, sez the Cristian teecher, "he duz." Having lernd that w-a-v-e spelz *wave*, and g-a-v-e spelz *gave*, and that b-o-n-e spelz *bone*, and s-t-o-n-e spelz *stone*, he starts auf [off] "I hāve dōne"—No, no, sez the Cristian teecher, yoo must say "I hav dun," and he sez "I hav dun ;" but the heethen must be pīusly inclined hoo duz not interpolate an adjetiv at leest, expressive ov disgust.

Every considerashon therfore, which shūd moov a man tu acshon appeelz tu us tū hāsen the day when our language shal be speld as it iz pronounst—speld by the fewest posible leterz, omiting aul silent leterz, Anglisizing the spelng ov aul forin wurdz that seek adopshon intu our language, az d-e-p-o for *depot*, c-o-m-i-l-f-o for *comme il faut*, and so on, adopting for the prezent the most natūral and ūzual way ov designāting the several soundz ov the several vowelz, az jeneraly the long sound by a final e, az s-o-l-e, h-o-p-e, g-a-t-e, m-u-t-e, ets., and for the prezent abstāning from new caracterz, and new and unūzual combinashonz. Our personal cumfort, and the cumfort ov our children and nāborz, the interest ov the heethen hoo lūk tu us for the Gospel, and the interests ov commers which demand at leest wun common language in aul the marts ov trade, aul, aul, appeel tu us. Az literary men ov hy amez yoo dare not be indiferent.

HOW WIL IT LUK ?

In conclūding I wil consider ōnly wun more objeeshon tu the proposed reform, and I wil conseed that it iz the mōst formidabl ov aul —rēaly the ōnly wun that standz îñ the way. *How wil it luk?* The question iz not, “How wil it wurk,” or “How wil it sound,” but, “How wil it lük.” The botom trūth iz that it iz “aul in the ie” at last. No wun mistakes the meening ov wurdz spōken, yet ten thousand wurdz ar spōken tu wun that iz red. In anser tu the question I must admit that at ferst it wil lük aukwerd, and in meny cāsez rēaly offensiv tu the cultivāted ie. But shal the milionz be kept in bondage becauz a few wūd be pūt tu a temporary inconvēniens in the meer mater ov lüks?

“How duz it lük” sed the aristocratic farasee ov too thousand yeerz ago, when Christ ate with publicans and sinerz. That woz sumthing new and abhorrent tu thare educashon. “How wil it lük tu hav a fūneral, or a weding, or a meer informal caul without wine?” sed the fashionable objector tu temperans, fifty yeerz ago. “How wil it lük tu see nēgrōz vōting and siting on jūryz?” sed the objector tu the enfranchizment ov nēgrōz les than twenty yeerz ago. “How wil it lük tu see wimen in colejez by the side ov thare brutherz, and then in storez, and shops, and the lerned profeshonz?” askt the incorijibl churl hoo dreded wūman ēquolity, a quorter ov a sentūry ago. Nun ov theez thingz lük intolerabl now that we hav becum familiar with them. The appeerans ov the bel ov the pēriod with her “ty-bak” ov tu-day, upon the street or in the drawing-room twenty yeerz ago, just az we had becum sumwhot reconciled to the enormus hoops ov that day, wūd hav crēated alarm and probably wūd hav rezulted in her ejectment from sosiety ; but litl by litl she haz stōlen upon us until we hāf admit that ty-baks ar handsum, and we wunder that enybody ever wore such outlandish skerts az the fashion plates ov twenty yeerz ago indicate.

So shal it be with the fūture speling. Introdūst suddenly it wūd lük horibl ; but ther ar children now at scool hooz children wil wunder that eny peepl ēver speld az we doo nōw. The wurk iz wun ov yeerz, but it wil be accomplisht.

Our cheef object in comensing the publicashon ov the SPELING REFORMER, woz tu furnish a sucseshon ov tracts on Speling Reform, which wūd be purchest by thoze frendly tu the cauz, and distribūted amung teecherz and uther influenshal personz. In pursūans ov this object, we hav publisht this muntth the adres ov the Rev. T. A. Goodwin on “The Duty ov Literary Men,” and we hope it wil be orderd in

quontitiz by our frendz for the purpus ov awākening or deepening an interest in this grate edūcashional topic. We will furnish the Addres at 50 sents a duzen. Mr. Goodwin haz orderd a thouzand, and haz aulso had an exelent fonetic heading made, for printing at the top ov biznes leterz and showing hiz îdēaz ov the best method ov reform.

THE APRIL NUMBER wil contane short articles ov Newz, Nōtisez ov Speling Reform Publicashonz, A Few Wordz from Isaac Pitman, Resolushons past at the Fōrth Quarterly Meeting ov the S. R. A., New Propozishonz, Critisizmz, Personals and Speshaltiz, etc., etc., māking a livly number for our reederz.

DETH TU INOVASHONZ.

From a comunicashon printed fonetically in "Bloomington Tidings," Mich.

"Doutles meny ov yoor reederz hav had thare sens ov propriēty shokt by the speling ov yoor corespondent, and sum ar dispozed tu make mery ōver it. Very wel. History recordz that the sājēz ov ōlden tīmez wer wont tu ridicule and lampoon, ây, persecute eech ov thozē grand ōld inventorz, Copernicus, Galilio, Stephenson. Fulton, Morse, and Garrison, az eech in turn dared tu stand by reezon and rite. It woz this same spirit ov naro mīnded bigotry and prejūdis that gave us the seen on Calvary, that animāted the torturez ov the Spanish Inquizishon, that renderd infamūs the rane ov 'Bludy Māry,' that burnd a Cranmer, that shot a Lovejoy, that murderd a Lincoln. No mater how inconsistent, torturus, or burdensum may be a time onord custom, eny propozed chānge or releef iz regarded with distrust, avershon, and horror. 'Deth tu inōvashonz!' iz the wochwurd.

But then ēven wize hedz may err in judgment. 'It can't be dun, ser! Yoo ar a fool, ser!' sed Ser Humphrey Davy—himself no novis in sīens—tu the man hoo ferst propozed tu lite the streets ov London by gas. 'The felo iz mad—insane' sed the English Lordz when Stephenson announst hiz beleef in the ability ov hiz lōcomōtiv tu run 12 milez an our. An English Rewew spoke thus about the same time: 'What can be more palpably ridicūlus than the prospect held out ov locomōtivz traveling twise az fast az stage cōchez?' And aul this scarsely more than fifty yearz ago. And so, jentlmen, the orthografic lēver iz wurking; a day ov rashonal speling iz dauning. Its progres may be slo, but no pūny strength ov yoorz iz able tu blok the wheelz ov progres."

A. J. PIERCE, *So. Haven, Mich.*

A. J. PIERCE, formerly ov the "Normal Herald" in which the Anglo-American print woz tested three yearz ago, sendz us 3 subscripshonz, saying, "I cannot doo without the Speling Reformer." He haz aulso had pōstal cards printed with a few lines ov fonetic speling on them.

SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

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The Spelling Reform Association was organized at Philadelphia, in August, 1870. Its purposes are best stated in the second article of its constitution.

"The object of this Association shall be the simplification of English orthography. To this end it will secure the delivery of addresses, publish articles, circulate books, pamphlets and charts; endeavor to introduce the reform in schools, and in all proper ways, as far as the means at its disposal will allow, will urge the matter upon the attention of the people."

The Association now numbers hundreds, and includes many of the leading scholars and educational men of the country. Much work has been already accomplished, and it is very desirable that the friends of this great Reform should show their faith by adopting a few, if not all, of the new spellings, at once. The words "In Revised Spelling," written at the top of a letter sheet, will show that any departure from the usual orthography is due to a desire to help reform its many anomalies and absurdities.

A FEW RULES FOR NEW SPELLINGS.

1.—Omit *a* from the digraf *ea* when pronounst as e-short, as in *hed*, *helth*, etc. 2.—Omit silent *e* after a short vowel, as in *hav*, *giv*, etc. 3.—Write *f* for *ph* in such words as *alfabet*, *fantom*, etc. 4.—When a word ends with a double letter, omit the last, as in *shal*, *clif*, *eg*, etc. 5.—Change *ed* final to *t* where it has the sound of *t*, as in *lasht*, *imprest*, etc. 6.—Uze *z* for *s* when *s* has the sound of *z*.

The spelling used in printing this address is conformable to the above suggestions, and, further, to what is known as the Anglo-American basis, namely, "useless letters are omitted, and the letters and combinations of letters of the common alphabet are employed with their most usual signification." Mute *e* is retained after a consonant only when it denotes that the preceding vowel is *long*. Marked letters or vowel digrafs are employed when this lengthener is not available. In cases of doubtful pronunciation, preference is given to the present spelling, subject to future decision. The Anglo-American so much resembles the common print and script, that its introduction into general use for printing and correspondence will occasion no confusion to ordinary readers. But this present spelling does not profess to be authoritative, only tentative and suggestive, to be changed on further trial, if thought best. For further information and documents, address (with stamp),

Mrs. E. B. BURNZ,

SPELLING REFORM ROOMS, 33 PARK ROW, NEW YORK.

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